

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended): A single-walled teat cup for laboratory animals, wherein one side of said teat cup is attached to the udder of a laboratory animal through suction and the other side of said teat cup is connected to a negative-pressure generating source via a milk collecting container, wherein milk is collected from said laboratory animal into said milk collecting container through ~~the a~~ sucking pulsation provided by said negative-pressure generating source, said teat cup comprising:

a first conical portion having a funnel shape, where an udder base portion becomes attached;

a second conical portion having a cylindrical shape where a conically bulging portion of the udder becomes attached, said second conical portion being continuous from said first conical portion;

a third conical portion having a funnel shape where a teat base portion becomes attached, said third conical portion being continuous from said second conical portion;

a cylindrical teat holding portion having a cylindrical shape where the teat is introduced by suction and fixed without blocking ~~the a~~ teat orifice, said teat holding portion being continuous from said third conical portion; and

a connecting portion for connecting the cylindrical teat holding portion to the milk collecting container, which is connected on ~~the a~~ side of a negative-pressure generating source,

wherein said second conical portion, said third conical portion, and said teat holding portion are dimensioned slightly larger than the actual sizes of said conically bulging portion of the udder, said teat base portion, and said teat of the laboratory animal to be milked, and

wherein negative pressure and atmospheric pressure are alternately provided at a tip of the teat cup and a required milking operation is carried out.

2. (previously presented): The teat cup for laboratory animals according to claim 1, wherein said teat holding portion includes a region with an increased cross-sectional area near where a tip of the teat is to be located, as compared to a cross-sectional area of the rest of the teat holding portion.

3. (original): The teat cup for laboratory animals according to claim 1, wherein said teat holding portion comprises a conical surface that becomes narrower toward the tip thereof.

4. (original): The teat cup for laboratory animals according to any one of claims 1 to 3, wherein said teat cup is entirely made of a transparent material.